

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

SP 1. An image processing apparatus comprising hiding means for forming second identification information not easily recognizable with eye and different in form from first identification information relating to a copyright and not easily recognizable with eye, said hiding means also for setting the second identification information in image data containing the first identification information.

2. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first identification information is formed by a first color signal, and said hiding means comprises color conversion means for performing color conversion of the image data, and forming means for forming the second identification information by a second color signal different from the first color signal forming the color-converted first identification information in the color-converted image data.

Sub 3. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first identification information has a first block size, and said hiding means forms the second identification information having a second block size.

4. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said hiding means comprises color conversion means for performing color conversion of the image data, and sets the second identification information having the second block size in the color-converted image data.

5. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein each of the color-converted first identification information and the second identification information is formed by a yellow signal.

6. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first identification information is formed by a signal for a thin color.

7. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first identification information is set as a frequency component of the image data.

8. An image processing method comprising a setting step including:  
forming second identification information not easily recognizable with eye and different in form from first identification information relating to a copyright and not easily recognizable with eye; and

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setting the second identification information in image data containing the first identification information.

9. An image processing method according to Claim 8, wherein the first identification information is formed by a first color signal, and said setting step comprises performing color conversion of the image data and forming the second identification information by a second color signal different from the first color signal forming the color-converted first identification information in the color-converted image data.

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10. An image processing method according to Claim 8, wherein the first identification information has a first block size, and said setting step comprises forming the second identification information having a second block size.

11. An image processing method according to Claim 10, wherein said setting step comprises performing color conversion of the image data and setting the second identification information having the second block size in the color-converted image data.

12. An image processing method according to Claim 11, wherein each of the color-converted first identification

information and the second identification information is formed by a yellow signal.

13. An image processing method according to Claim 8, wherein the first identification information is formed by a signal for a thin color.

14. An image processing method according to Claim 8, wherein the first identification information is set as a frequency component of the image data.

15. A computer-readable storage medium comprising a program for a setting process stored therein, the setting process including:

forming second identification information not easily recognizable with eye and different in form from first identification information relating to a copyright and not easily recognizable with eye; and

setting the second identification information in image data containing the first identification information.

16. A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 15, wherein the first identification information is formed by a first color signal, and the setting process comprises color conversion processing for performing color

conversion of the image data and forming processing for forming the second identification information by a second color signal different from the first color signal forming the color-converted first identification information in the color-converted image data.

53 17. A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 15, wherein the first identification information has a first block size, and the setting process comprises forming the second identification information having a second block size.

18. A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 17, wherein the setting process comprises color conversion processing for performing color conversion of the image data, and sets the second identification information having the second block size in the color-converted image data.

19. An image processing apparatus comprising hiding means for forming second identification information not easily recognizable with eye and different in form from first identification information not easily recognizable with eye, said hiding means also for setting the second identification information in image data containing the

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first identification information.

20. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the first identification information is formed by a first color signal, and said hiding means comprises color conversion means for performing color conversion of the image data, and forming means for forming the second identification information by a second color signal different from the first color signal forming the color-converted first identification information in the color-converted image data.

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*31* 21. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the first identification information has a first block size, and said hiding means forms the second identification information having a second block size.

22. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein said hiding means comprises color conversion means for performing color conversion of the image data, and sets the second identification information having the second block size in the color-converted image data.

23. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein each of the color-converted first identification

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computer-readable storage medium comprising a setting process stored therein, the setting process being:

second identification information not easily seen with eye and different in form from first identification information and not easily recognizable with the second identification information in image of the first identification information.

26. A computer-readable storage medium comprising a program for a setting process stored therein, the setting process including:

forming second identification information not easily recognizable with eye and different in form from first identification information and not easily recognizable with eye; and

setting the second identification information in image data containing the first identification information.

27. A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 26, wherein the first identification information is formed by a first color signal, and the setting process comprises color conversion processing for performing color

conversion of the image data and forming processing for forming the second identification information by a second color signal different from the first color signal forming the color-converted first identification information in the color-converted image data.

28. A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 26, wherein the first identification information has a first block size, and the setting process comprises forming the second identification information having a second block size.

29. A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 28, wherein the setting process comprises color conversion processing for performing color conversion of the image data, and sets the second identification information having the second block size in the color-converted image data.

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